Reception Room

COTTON CHATS

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DRAPER CORPORATION

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WHAT NEXT?

The above question which follows the termination of war conditions stares us in the face from all points of view; religious, social, economic and otherwise.

One of the cotton manufacturers' problems is well outlined in a recent article in the American Wool and Cotton Reporter from which we quote the following extracts:

> The signing of the armistice, with the cancellation of Government contracts and the slowness of the civilian trade to fill the breach, due in part to uncertainty about prices, which were always going lower, and in part to labor difficulties, brought about a dullness in business that has led to curtailment of production and consequent financial losses which in a degree still continue.
>
> There are few pessimists, however. A period of peace prosperity such as has never

been witnessed before seems to be almost a certainty, when once the peace treaty has been signed and some of the obstacles to trading which the readjustment from a war to a peace basis made necessary have been removed. Competition is going to be keen and the prize is to be won by those who are best prepared. Those who can most economically produce and sell high quality fabrics are going to win out in the race for foreign markets which is sure to come. Foreign competitors like England, France, Belgium and Germany, though they may, except perhaps in the case of England, require a longer time to put their industries on a satisfactory basis, will sooner or later be in the field again, and our present advantage will be only a temporary one.

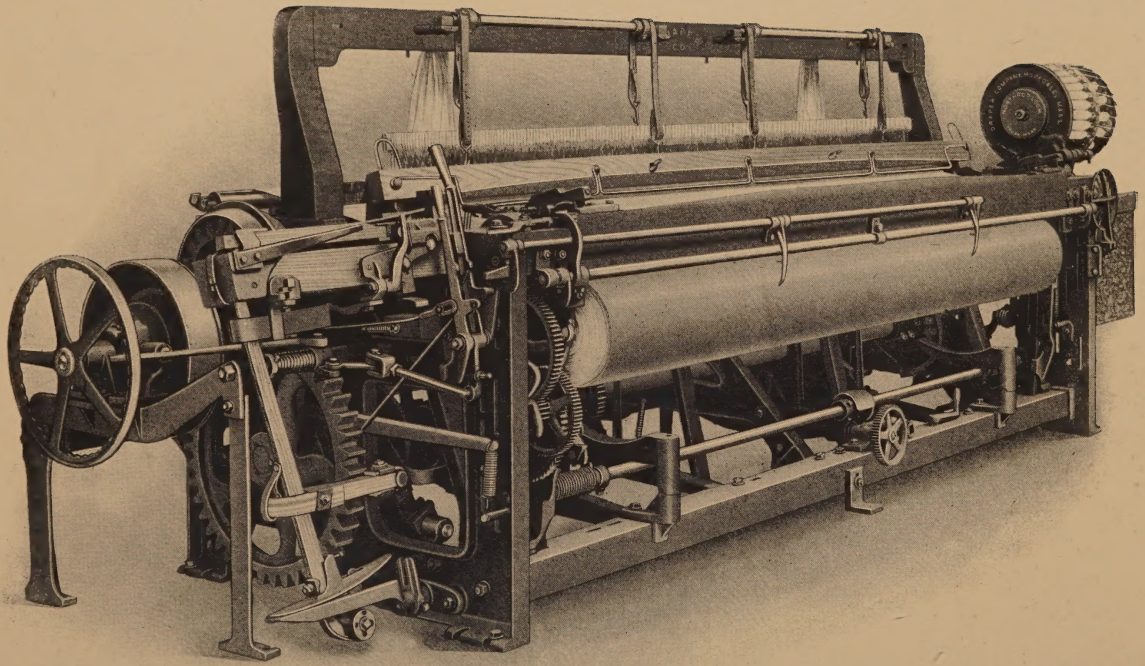
The factors that will make for success include cheapness and availability of raw material, supply of labor, as well as hours of labor and wages paid, and other costs that enter into production. A lot will depend upon up-to-date equipment operated under capable management to get out the greatest production in the shortest time, while also assuring the maintenance of quality. Labor will offer one of the greatest problems. With shorter hours and increased costs, production will suffer unless a means is found to introduce more labor saving equipment. In the opinion of many, the chief solution for

the most efficient carrying on of our national industry, is the use of more labor saving machinery. This will be a big factor for the whole industry.

Cotton mills must install more automatic machinery if they are going to compete advantageously with the manufacturers in other parts of this country and abroad. Automatic looms are going to be a big factor. The installation of more automatic machinery is sure to be one of the important means of solving the labor problem with which textile mills will have to contend in the future as in the past. This will not necessarily involve any development which will work to the disadvantage of operatives, but will rather in long the run be for their benefit.

The sooner the cotton manufacturing industry of the country is put more completely on an automatic basis the more assured are our chances of attaining and keeping that supremacy in the textile markets of the world about which there is so much talk these days. Surely one of the best investments that a cotton mill can make with some of the war profits which have not yet been distributed is the purchase of automatic looms.

MANY HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE LIGHT.



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